

THE SPANISH  
IN 1901

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH

## Shipping

**Shipping.**

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**Steamers.**

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**THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**FOR SWATOW AND BANGKOK.**




The Company's Steamer  
*Deuxieme*,  
Captain P. H. LOFF, will  
be dispatched for the  
above Ports on **THURSDAY, the 16th**  
Inst., at 10 a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
**YUEN FAT HONG,**  
Agents.

Hongkong, October 16, 1888. 1735

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**FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND:**


 CALCUTTA.  
 The Steamship  
*Arcticon* Ofen,   
 Capt. J. G. Aquarez, will  
 leave for the Bengalee as above  
 on FRIDAY, the 19th Instant, at Noon.  
 For Freight or Passage, apply to  
 DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,  
 Agents.  
 Hongkong, October 15, 1888. 1732

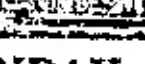
STEAM TO STRAITS & BOMBAY.  
 The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s  
 Steamship  
*Lombardy*  
 will leave for the above  
 places on FRIDAY, 19th Inst., at Noon.  
 E. L. WOODIN,  
 Superintendent.  
 P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,  
 Hongkong, October 13, 1888. 1717

FOR SINGAPORE, HAVRE AND  
HAMBURG, VIA SUEZ CANAL.  
(Taking Cargo at through rates to  
ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTER-  
DAM, LONDON, LIVERPOOL  
and BREMEN.)

The Steamship  
*Brigga*,  
Capt. F. NAZZI, will be  
despatched for the above  
Ports on SUNDAY, the 21st. Instant, at  
4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

**SIEMSEN & Co.,**  
*Agents.*  
 Hongkong, October 9, 1888. 1699  
**OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**  
**FOR SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.**  
*(Taking Cargo & Passengers at through rates*  
*for NINGPO, OHEROO, NEW.*  
**CHWANG, TIENSIN, HANKOW and**  
*Ports on the YANGTZE.)*  
*The Co. is Steamship*

 The Steamship  
**Titan**  
Captain **BROWN**, will be  
despatched as above on  
**MONDAY, the 22nd Instant.**  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
**BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,**  
Agents.  
Hongkong, October 16, 1888. **1739**

**FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND  
YOKOHAMA.**

The Steamship  
**Fujian**  
Captain **BOWLEY**, will be  
despatched for the above  
Ports on the 22nd Instant.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,  
*Agents.*  
Hongkong, October 13, 1888. 1743

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OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.  
FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE AND  
YOKOHAMA.  
The Co.'s Steamship  
*Gen tes,*  
 Captain *Saiz,* will be  
despatched as above on  
FRIDAY, the 20th Instant.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
*Agents.*  
Hongkong, October 16, 1888. 1744

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THE CHINA SHIPPERS' MUTUAL.

STEAM NAVIGATION COM-  
PANY, LIMITED,  
FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.  
The Co.'s Steamship  
*Ningpooh*,  
W. C. DUKEN, Commander,  
will be despatched as  
above on or about the 27th instant.  
For Freight, &c., apply to  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,  
Agents,  
Hongkong, October 13, 1868. 1725

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**Sailing Vessels.**

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FOR SAN FRANCISCO.  
The 3/3 L.L. American Ship.  
*Great Admiral*,  
J. F. ROVELL, Master, will load  
at the above Port, and  
will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to  
**RUSSELL & Co.**  
 Hongkong, September 18, 1888. 1556

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**Not Responsible for Debts.**

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*Whether the Captain, the Agents, nor  
 Owners will be Responsible for  
 any Debt contracted by the Officers or  
 Crew of the following Vessels, during  
 their stay in Hongkong Harbour:—*

*Hevea, German steamer, Capt. Dethlefsen.  
 —Siemssen & Co.*

*Iron, French barque, Capt. E. Rognier.  
 Melchers & Co.*

*MARY L. STONE, American ship, Captain  
 —Pustau & Co.*

*NAUACUS, British ship, Captain —*



vent to prison. That in itself is an injustice and it is more than an injury.

consider that a very great majority of the Chinese and a very large number of the Europeans are gambling continually. It appears to me, however, morally monstrous that some people should be punished while others escape for what is made a crime and who are really morally no worse than I. I say that this is a very serious evil in itself, for this reason that it obliterates what ought to be a distinct boundary, that is the boundary between criminal and innocent acts. If people are continually sent to Gaol for an offence which is being continually committed by others and as regards whom the only difference is that, then, are no

why I say that the feeling against crime must be greatly dulled; and in that respect not only moral injury but substantial injury is done to the community, because the inducements to restrain real crime are made thereby the less. That is the chief objection but another reason is found in the impracticability of separating these people in the present jail. The people who are convicted of gambling are really after all morally no worse than a very large portion of the

population, and not to separate them from the ordinary criminals is I am sure a great wrong. You may have a man who never did a real crime in his life, but who made a criminal of and thrown into gaol beside real criminals, simply because he has betted his few cash in a gambling house. For these reasons this Ordinance although small is very important; because there ought not to be a moment's delay about it and we cannot bring in a large ordinance at once. Another reason why I think

at once. Another reason why I bring it in now is this. I may say I have been taking a very serious responsibility upon me for some months past in releasing such people after a few days' imprisonment. My principal reason for doing that in the first instance was the crowded state of our Gaol in face of the cholera, but in looking into the matter, I determined at the earliest moment that I would bring in a law of this kind, and meanwhile I would reduce to as little as possible the

punishment of ordinary gamblers. At the same time, while doing this I believe gambling is likely to be much more completely suppressed by making the people who are really responsible suffer most—keepers of gambling houses and sellers of lottery tickets—to cause them to be necessarily afflicted with very severe punishments. For that reason I have withdrawn altogether their cases from the option of a fine. That is the principle of the ordinance and I recommend

it to the Council for consideration.  
THE FIRE ENQUENY ORDINANCE.  
The Attorney General moved the second reading of this Bill.  
The Colonial Secretary seconded.  
The second reading was carried and the Council went into committee.  
Several amendments of a minor nature were moved. One was the deletion of the words to the effect that a Surveyor be asked to report.  
Mr. Bavin asked what was the reason

His Excellency said he did not remember at the moment the argument that weighed with him in agreeing to the deletion of the phrase. He thought the report of a Supervisor would rarely be of use.

It was agreed to let the section in which this occurs stand over.

Captain Deane with regard to another section in which it is stated that after we fire the Captain Superintendent or Chief

Inspector should report on a fire, move that the word 'chief' be left out and that a clause run to the effect that an inspector officer in charge of a district should report. He said it would be impossible for one or two officers to attend to all the fires that might occur not only in Hongkong but the districts.

The Acting Chief Justice seconded the amendment.

His Excellency admitted the force of Chief Justice Denison's suggestion, but said he had not

Some discussion occurred on this point. The Attorney General said that if a case was brought before him, he would take one lower than an Inspector took such a case on hand and did it in a perfunctory manner. The object of the Ordinance was defeated. Finally the amendment was so worded:

to preclude any under the rank of Inspector or Acting Inspector reporting.  
The Council adjourned to Monday next.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

The Finance Committee met after the Council.

**THE FEVER COMMISSION.**

The first minute was :—  
The Governor recommends the Council to vote the sum of Four hundred Dollars

honorarium to the Secretary for his services in connection with the Fever Commission also the sum of One hundred and Seventy-nine Dollars and Twenty-five Cents to Cox for his services as shorthand writer. Mr Layton asked when the report would be presented. They had never seen it. The Colonial Secretary—There are some questions pending. Mr Suth—The report will not be published until we have heard from the Secretary of State.

**LUNATIC ASYLUM.**  
The Governor recommends the Council to vote the sum of Seven thousand Dollars being a portion of the amount (\$20,000) required for the building of a Lunatic Asylum for Chinese.

The Colonial Secretary said the building was to be put up near the European Asylum.

**A NEW TELEGRAPH CABLE.**  
The Governor recommends the Council

vote the sum of Two thousand Five hundred and Fifty-one Dollars, and Ninety-Cents, being the cost of a new Submarine telegraph cable, and expenses incurred laying it between Hongkong and Kaula. The old cable, after examination have been found unrepairable, a new one, of type approximately double the weight of the old cable, has been laid by the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. A heavy kind of shore-end cable is found necessary at both ends.

The Governor recommends the Court to vote the sum of Nine thousand Eight hundred and Fifty Dollars to defray the cost of the extension westward of Low Richmond Road. This road, when finished, will enable the adjoining ground on each side to be parcelled out into building lots.

**LAND SLIPS.**  
The Governor recommends the Council vote the sum of Thirteen thousand, Five hundred and Twenty-three Dollars, and Twenty-nine Cents for repairs to damages from land-slips, fall of walls, injuries to culverts, roads, and other damages caused by the rainstorms during the rainy season of the year.

**A GRATUITY.**  
The Governor recommends the Council

The Governor recommends the Court to vote the sum of Three hundred and Fifty Dollars as a gratuity to the son of the late



D. A. de Costa, Senior Marine Officer in the General Post Office, to enable him to complete his education. Mr Costa died in May last after 23 years' faithful service, leaving his son, a lad of 14 years, totally unprovided for. It is proposed to advance money in this behalf of Trustees, who would see to its proper application.

All the votes were passed by the Committee.

#### THE ESTIMATES FOR 1889.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance enacted by the Government of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, to apply a sum not exceeding One million Two hundred and Thirty-four thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-nine Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1889.

WHEREAS the expenditure required for the service of this Colony for the year 1889 has been estimated at the sum of One million Two hundred and Thirty-four thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-nine Dollars; and it is enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

A sum not exceeding One million Two hundred and Thirty-four thousand Nine hundred and Twenty-nine Dollars shall be and the same is hereby charged upon the revenue of this Colony for the service of the year 1889, and the said sum shall be expended as hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

| ESTABLISHMENTS.                           |            |
|---|------------|
| Governor, .....                           | 9,500      |
| Colonial Secretary, .....                 | 11,288     |
| Auditor, .....                            | 5,048      |
| Colonial Treasurer, .....                 | 6,728      |
| Clerk of Councils, .....                  | 6,728      |
| Surveyor General, .....                   | 63,036     |
| Postmaster General, .....                 | 33,736     |
| Registrar General, .....                  | 12,590     |
| Harbour Master, .....                     | 44,154     |
| Lighthouse, .....                         | 6,603      |
| Observatory, .....                        | 6,610      |
| Collector of Stamp Revenue, .....         | 4,822      |
| Government Gardens and Plantations, ..... | 8,346      |
| Judicial, .....                           | 35,720     |
| Ecclesiastical, .....                     | 1,158      |
| Educational, .....                        | 24,359     |
| Medical, .....                            | 31,642     |
| Police Magistrates, .....                 | 7,830      |
| Police, .....                             | 108,618    |
| Garol, .....                              | 32,148     |
| Fire Brigade, .....                       | 11,748     |
| Sanitary, .....                           | 32,140     |
|   | \$ 592,163 |

| SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.     |             |
|---|-------------|
| Colonial Treasurer, .....                 | 4,738       |
| Postmaster General, .....                 | 68,000      |
| Government Gardens and Plantations, ..... | 13,800      |
| Judicial, .....                           | 1,200       |
| Ecclesiastical, .....                     | 22,192      |
| Educational, .....                        | 21,343      |
| Medical, .....                            | 390         |
| Police Magistrates, .....                 | 47,738      |
| Police, .....                             | 22,000      |
| Garol, .....                              | 5,800       |
| Fire Brigade, .....                       | 400         |
| Sanitary, .....                           | 4,000       |
| Charitable Allowance, .....               | 4,500       |
| Works and Buildings, .....                | 55,900      |
| Roads, Streets and Bridges, .....         | 55,500      |
| Miscellaneous Services, .....             | 83,012      |
| Military Expenditure, .....               | 100,303     |
| Interest on Loan, .....                   | 95,192      |
|   | \$ 612,758  |
| Grand Total, .....                        | \$1,204,921 |

#### THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, to apply a sum not exceeding One hundred and Ninety-four thousand Four hundred and Sixty-eight Dollars and Sixty-three cents to defray the Charges of the Year 1887.

WHEREAS it has become necessary to make further provision for the service of this Colony for the year 1887, in addition to the charge upon the revenue for the service of the said year already provided for; and it is enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. A sum of One hundred and Ninety-four thousand Four hundred and Sixty-eight Dollars and Sixty-three cents is hereby charged upon the revenue of this Colony for the service of the year 1887, the said sum to be expended as hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

| ESTABLISHMENTS.           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Treasurer, .....          | 2,367.50     |
| Surveyor General, .....   | 1,094.04     |
| Sanitary, .....           | 2,377.50     |
| Postmaster General, ..... | 844.74       |
| Harbour Master, .....     | 2,408.74     |
| Observatory, .....        | 6,848        |
| Judicial, .....           | 2,003.48     |
| Ecclesiastical, .....     | 420.48       |
| Medical, .....            | 18.63        |
| Garol, .....              | 461.66       |
| Fire Brigade, .....       | 39.22        |
|                           | \$ 12,875.33 |

#### SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Surveyor General, .....       | 97.00        |
| Sanitary, .....               | 3,105.63     |
| Medical, .....                | 122.00       |
| Police Magistrates, .....     | 9.34         |
| Police, .....                 | 4,200.00     |
| Landed Houses, .....          | 1,500.00     |
| Miscellaneous Services, ..... | 22,818.22    |
|                               | \$ 66,735.44 |

#### EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Extraordinary Public Works, .....           | 106,411.48   |
| Extraordinary Military Defence Works, ..... | 8,444.28     |
|   | \$114,855.76 |
| Total, .....                                | \$124,488.63 |

#### ESTIMATED REVENUE.

Abstract of the probable Revenue of the Colonial Government of Hongkong for the Year 1889, showing also the Revenue received under the similar heads in the Year 1887, and Estimated, for 1888.

| Revenue Estimated for 1889   | Revenue Received for 1888 | Estimated for 1888 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Land Revenue, .....          | 184,825                   | 174,800            |
| Rent, .....                  | 20,255                    | 20,400             |
| License, .....               | 21,622                    | 21,210             |
| Taxes, .....                 | 127,438                   | 125,659            |
| Postage, .....               | 35,320                    | 31,000             |
| Telegraph, .....             | 13,017                    | 12,100             |
| Revenue of Government, ..... | 7,105                     | 1,000              |
| Revenue of Government, ..... | 20,638                    | 21,500             |
| Interest, .....              | 8,500                     | 7,100              |
| Miscellaneous Revenue, ..... | 1,420                     | 1,420              |
| Total, .....                 | 1,420,450                 | 1,420,450          |

In a memorandum explaining the alterations of estimates of revenue, the following remarks are made:—Land sales, increase of 1889 over 1888, \$5,000, more land sales; lands not leased including some quarries, increase \$2,000, better system for collecting rents on squatters. Rents of markets &c. decrease \$5,000, owing to lower rents

during the construction of the New Central Market; rents of buildings, decrease \$3,000, shops in the Central Market to be built down for reconstruction of the New Market. Auctioneers, decrease, \$300, fewer licensees issued, Opium Monopoly, increase \$246,000, monopoly sold for \$477,600 per annum for three years from 1st March, 1889. Stamp, increase \$20,000, receipts are steadily on the increase. Assessed taxes, decrease \$49,000, reduction of rates in the City of Victoria to 11½ per cent., in the Hill District to 7½ per cent., in any other place to 6½ per cent.; postage, increase, \$25,000, postal business is increasing. Registry of boats, increase \$4,000, and of cargo, increase \$1,000. Licenses for boats raised by regulations made under Section 39 of Ordinance 8 of 1879. Registry of carriages, increase \$8,000, this increase is expected by the Captain Superintendent of Police, as \$9,972.90 were collected during the first half of the year. Medical fees, increase, \$20,000. Official administrator and Assessor, decrease \$1,000, estimated on basis of previous years' receipts. Medical treatment of sick seamen and others from Civil Hospital, increase, \$1,000, estimated on basis of previous years' receipts. Storage of gunpowder, decrease \$2,000, expected by the Harbour Master.

#### THE AMENDMENT OF THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE.

The following is the text of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 9 of 1876:—

Enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. Ordinance 9 of 1876 is hereby amended, by substituting for sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 the following sections, that is to say:—

3. Any person who shall keep any house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, shall be liable to be imprisoned with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

4. Any person who shall keep any house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, shall be liable to be imprisoned with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

5. Any person who shall keep any house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, or shall permit any person to play within such house, room, or place, shall be liable to be imprisoned with hard labour for any term not exceeding six months.

#### RESERVATION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The following is the text of the Bill entitled The European District Reservation Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1888:—

Enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. Ordinance 16 of 1888 is hereby amended, by adding at the end of section 2, the following words, viz:—The words "Hill District" shall mean the district bounded on the East by the Wantai and Aberdeen valleys, on the West by the Victoria Harbour, on the North by the Victoria Harbour, and on the South by the Victoria Harbour, and by inserting after the words "European District" wherever they occur in the Ordinance the words "Hill District."

#### THE GOVERNOR'S FINANCE.

G. WILLIAM DE VRIES.

The Governor has directed to be laid on the table for the consideration of the Legislative Council the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1889.

With the taxation remaining as at present, the Estimated Ordinary Revenue for the Colony for the year 1889, in addition to the charge upon the revenue for the service of the said year already provided for; and it is enacted by the Governor of Hongkong, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

1. A sum of One hundred and Ninety-four thousand Four hundred and Sixty-eight Dollars and Sixty-three cents is hereby charged upon the revenue of this Colony for the service of the year 1887, the said sum to be expended as hereinafter specified; that is to say:—

| ESTABLISHMENTS.           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Treasurer, .....          | 2,367.50     |
| Surveyor General, .....   | 1,094.04     |
| Sanitary, .....           | 2,377.50     |
| Postmaster General, ..... | 844.74       |
| Harbour Master, .....     | 2,408.74     |
| Observatory, .....        | 6,848        |
| Judicial, .....           | 2,003.48     |
| Ecclesiastical, .....     | 420.48       |
| Medical, .....            | 18.63        |
| Garol, .....              | 461.66       |
| Fire Brigade, .....       | 39.22        |
|                           | \$ 12,875.33 |

#### SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Surveyor General, .....       | 97.00        |
| Sanitary, .....               | 3,105.63     |
| Medical, .....                | 122.00       |
| Police Magistrates, .....     | 9.34         |
| Police, .....                 | 4,200.00     |
| Landed Houses, .....          | 1,500.00     |
| Miscellaneous Services, ..... | 22,818.22    |
|                               | \$ 66,735.44 |

#### EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Extraordinary Public Works, .....           | 106,411.48   |
| Extraordinary Military Defence Works, ..... | 8,444.28     |
|   | \$114,855.76 |
| Total, .....                                | \$124,488.63 |

#### ESTIMATED REVENUE.

Abstract of the probable Revenue of the Colonial Government of Hongkong for the Year 1889, showing also the Revenue received under the similar heads in the Year 1887, and Estimated, for 1888.

| Revenue Estimated for 1889   | Revenue Received for 1888 | Estimated for 1888 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Land Revenue, .....          | 184,825                   | 174,800            |
| Rent, .....                  | 20,255                    | 20,400             |
| License, .....               | 21,622                    | 21,210             |
| Taxes, .....                 | 127,438                   | 125,659            |
| Postage, .....               | 35,320                    | 31,000             |
| Telegraph, .....             | 13,017                    | 12,100             |
| Revenue of Government, ..... | 7,105                     | 1,000              |
| Revenue of Government, ..... | 20,638                    | 21,500             |
| Interest, .....              | 8,500                     | 7,100              |
| Miscellaneous Revenue, ..... | 1,420                     | 1,420              |
| Total, .....                 | 1,420,450                 | 1,420,450          |

In a memorandum explaining the alterations of estimates of revenue, the following remarks are made:—Land sales, increase of 1889 over 1888, \$5,000, more land sales; lands not leased including some quarries, increase \$2,000, better system for collecting rents on squatters. Rents of markets &c. decrease \$5,000, owing to lower rents

capacitated by illness. During the last month, and since, and many works are thereby unduly retarded. As one instance out of many, the Estimates for the Extension of the Praya in front of the Admiralty and War Office property have, owing to this cause, been delayed for several months; and it has therefore been impossible to submit to Her Majesty's Government the scheme for this long-delayed and supremely important improvement, which the Governor is most glad to announce, received early in the year the concurrence of the local authorities, Civil, Naval and Military, (the question however of the provision of the cost to be paid respectively by the Local and Imperial Governments remaining yet to be settled).

The staff as increased by these recommendations will, in the opinion of the Governor, be not more than under any circumstances, be required in the coming year. A still further, though temporary, addition to the strength of the Department will be required, if there should be an immediate commencement of all the Public Works to which reference is made below.

#### Public Works.

The increase of \$10,684 in the votes for this Department is principally to supply an addition to the numbers of the Force, required to meet the growth of the population.

#### Goods.

The additions to salaries in this Department are chiefly for the purpose of bringing about a very necessary improvement in the staff, the remuneration hitherto given having rarely proved sufficient to be a permanent attraction to the most efficient. The Governor has felt compelled to recommend for reasons which will be explained in Finance Committee.

#### EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

With Ordinary Revenue estimated at \$1,737,718, and Ordinary Expenditure at \$1,384,035, there is thus a balance of \$353,683. Certain recommendations which the Governor intends to make to the Secretary of State, but which cannot be introduced into the Estimates without previous sanction, may possibly reduce this balance by a sum not exceeding \$200,000, leaving \$153,683. Adding to this \$150,000 which has been set aside for land-premiums, and \$445,000 the probable balance in the Treasury at the present year, there results a total of \$878,683 available for the cost of Public Works and to meet unexpected contingencies.

#### THE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

As regards most of the works, the mere mention of them by name is sufficient to suggest their necessity to residents of Hongkong. One of them, however, the Separate System of Drainage which happens to be the most costly, may possibly require further explanation.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor, on this subject, fully supported as it is by the valuable opinion and judgment of the Surveyor General, has however produced in the Governor as complete a conviction of the necessity of the work as can be justly entertained by one who is not an expert; and he is of opinion that the views of our local Engineers should be approved by the eminent professional authorities in England, to whom the question will be referred, this Government would assume a very grave responsibility if it failed to make the earliest practicable commencement of these works.

Besides the Public Works appearing on the List there are (i) some equally required which cannot be commenced at once, such as a New Harbour Office, which requires to be placed on the proposed Reclamation, and New Supreme Court Buildings, Post Office, and the General Office, of which it is proposed to include with the other Government Offices in one large building to be erected on the site of the present North Barracks, and on the reclamation in front of it (the whole cost of these however being likely to be recouped by the sale of the sites of the present buildings); and (ii) some others which, it may be hoped, will be commenced in the coming year; viz:—

Extension of the Praya in front of the Admiralty and War Office Reserves, roughly estimated to cost, .....

Government portion of Reclamation in front of the Town of Victoria, .....

Reclamations in Kowloon, (first instalment), .....

Total, .....

These however being all works, not merely remunerative as are some of the others, but such as will very quickly repay the whole of their cost, in the case of the Reclamations, a large profit in addition, the Governor is of opinion that there can be no reasonable objection to the provision of the required funds by loan, unless, as by no means impossible, that course should prove unnecessary.

As regards borrowing funds for works which will benefit future generations as well as the present, especially such works as are of a remunerative character, the Governor believes that if the true position of the Colony were fully known, all reasonable objections to the raising of money for such purposes would be removed, and the interest required would moreover be reduced below the 4 per cent. which is the rate paid in respect of the last Loan. Considering the extremely small indebtedness of Hongkong with reference even to its immediately realisable assets, the Governor is of opinion that the raising of money for such purposes is a policy which there were necessity for borrowing a sum many times larger than is at all to be required, could not scarcely be offered more completely secured for it.

For though the area of the Colony is small, its Crown lands are of an exceptional value, and a value which is morally certain to increase with the rapid growth of the population.

Without attaching undue weight to the many recent sales of land at distances of 1½ to 2 miles from the town of Victoria at prices varying from 20 cents to 40 cents a square foot, or to the recent valuation

(believed to be more than justified by existing market prices) of the reclamation about to be undertaken in front of the Praya at (\$7,010,821, or including that in front of the Government property at) \$9,714,777 it may in any case be fairly considered that these figures throw a useful light on the present of the future, if the Colony, as there is every reason to suppose it will, should continue to prove an attraction to the people of the neighbouring Empire.

In the absence of calamity impossible to foresee and on the presumption that the Government is wise enough to maintain the present freedom of trade, there can be no reasonable doubt that the 20,000 acres of unsold land in the Colony (most of which is as suitable, or not more unsuitable for building than was originally that which is now covered with houses) will eventually realise an enormous sum. Indeed at this amount, the line would be drawn under any circumstances, be required in the coming year. A still further, though temporary, addition to the strength of the Department will be required, if there should be an immediate commencement of all the Public Works to which reference is made below.

#### Public Works.

The increase of \$10,684 in the votes for this Department is principally to supply an addition to the numbers of the Force, required to meet the growth of the population.

#### Goods.

The additions to salaries in this Department are chiefly for the purpose of bringing about a very necessary improvement in the staff, the remuneration hitherto given having rarely proved sufficient to be a permanent attraction to the most efficient. The Governor has felt compelled to recommend for reasons which will be explained in Finance Committee.

#### EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURE.

With Ordinary Revenue estimated at \$1,737,718, and Ordinary Expenditure at \$1,384,035, there is thus a balance of \$353,683. Certain recommendations which the Governor intends to make to the Secretary of State, but which cannot be introduced into the Estimates without previous sanction, may possibly reduce this balance by a sum not exceeding \$200,000, leaving \$153,683. Adding to this \$150,000 which has been set aside for land-premiums, and \$445,000 the probable balance in the Treasury at the present year, there results a total of \$878,683 available for the cost of Public Works and to meet unexpected contingencies.

#### THE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

As regards most of the works, the mere mention of them by name is sufficient to suggest their necessity to residents of Hongkong. One of them, however, the Separate System of Drainage which happens to be the most costly, may possibly require further explanation.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor, on this subject, fully supported as it is by the valuable opinion and judgment of the Surveyor General, has however produced in the Governor as complete a conviction of the necessity of the work as can be justly entertained by one who is not an expert; and he is of opinion that the views of our local Engineers should be approved by the eminent professional authorities in England, to whom the question will be referred, this Government would assume a very grave responsibility if it failed to make the earliest practicable commencement of these works.

Besides the Public Works appearing on the List there are (i) some equally required which cannot be commenced at once, such as a New Harbour Office, which requires to be placed on the proposed Reclamation, and New Supreme Court Buildings, Post Office, and the General Office, of which it is proposed to include with the other Government Offices in one large building to be erected on the site of the present North Barracks, and on the reclamation in front of it (the whole cost of these however being likely to be recouped by the sale of the sites of the present buildings); and (ii) some others which, it may be hoped, will be commenced in the coming year; viz:—

Extension of the Praya in front of the Admiralty and War Office Reserves, roughly estimated to cost, .....

Government portion of Reclamation in front of the Town of Victoria, .....

Reclamations in Kowloon, (first instalment), .....

Total, .....

These however being all works, not merely remunerative as are some of the others, but such as will very quickly repay the whole of their cost, in the case of the Reclamations, a large profit in addition, the Governor is of opinion that there can be no reasonable objection to the provision of the required funds by loan, unless, as by no means impossible, that course should prove unnecessary.

As regards borrowing funds for works which will benefit future generations as well as the present, especially such works as are of a remunerative character, the Governor believes that if the true position of the Colony were fully known, all reasonable objections to the raising of money for such purposes would be removed, and the interest required would moreover be reduced below the 4 per cent. which is the rate paid in respect of the last Loan. Considering the extremely small indebtedness of Hongkong with reference even to its immediately realisable assets, the Governor is of opinion that the raising of money for such purposes is a policy which there were necessity for borrowing a sum many times larger than is at all to be required, could not scarcely be offered more completely secured for it.

For though the area of the Colony is small, its Crown lands are of an exceptional value, and a value which is morally certain to increase with the rapid growth of the population.

Without attaching undue weight to the many recent sales of land at distances of 1½ to 2 miles from the town of Victoria at prices varying from 20 cents to 40 cents a square foot, or to the recent valuation

intended that this charge should be met by a special tax on the shipping of 14 cent per ton; and as the decision of the Government on this point was with the unanimous support of the non-official members of Council, communicated to the Secretary of State and approved by him, the probable return on such a tax, viz., \$45,000, appears in the estimates of Revenue. But since the above decision was arrived at early in the year, the financial prospect has much improved; and as it is a fact clearly recognized by competent opinion, that taxes on trade affect injuriously to an extent which is by no means measured by the amount of Revenue produced, it appears to the Governor specially desirable to render such an input as is practicable in a Colony to which is Commerce is of such paramount importance. For this reason the Governor will recommend to the Secretary of State that the special rate for this Light-house shall be a cent instead of 14 cent per ton. By this means the burden will be distributed over a longer period; and it is probable that in the course of a year or two the condition of the Revenue may warrant the complete relief from it which at the present moment would be impracticable. Should the proposal be approved by the Council and receive the sanction of the Secretary of State, a sum of \$30,000 will require to be deducted from the total estimate of Revenue; the balance of Revenue over expenditure being also reduced by a like amount.

As regards other remission of taxation, the addition of the license for cargo-boats scarcely needs explanation. As the number of licensees was unlimited, no advantage was obtained from the tax, and such an impost on mere unskilled labourers could therefore receive a slight justification only from the fact that the license was useful for Police purposes. But as identification was impossible without photographs, to obtain which in the cases of some 1,000 people has been found impracticable, all reason for the tax completely fails.

The other and more important remission, for which allowance is made in the Estimates, consists of a reduction of one-and-a-half per cent. in the assessed rates—a remission which is over eleven-and-a-half per cent. of the whole of the rate paid in the town of Victoria and of course forms a much larger proportion of the lower rates paid in the country districts. The Governor had hoped to be able to propose a still larger reduction of this tax; but owing to an uncertainty which will probably come to the aid of the whole of the rate paid in the town of Victoria and of course forms a much larger proportion of the lower rates paid in the country districts. The Governor had hoped to be able to propose a still larger reduction of this tax; but owing to an uncertainty which will probably come to the aid of the whole of the rate paid in the town of Victoria and of course forms a much larger proportion of the lower rates paid in the country districts. The Governor had hoped to be able to propose a still larger reduction of this tax; but owing to an uncertainty which will probably come to the aid of the whole of the rate paid in the town of Victoria and of course forms a much larger proportion of the lower rates paid in the country districts.

#### THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Another point requires notice. The present favourable condition of the finances appears to afford a fitting opportunity for drawing attention to the Imperial Institute in England, the object of which is kept constantly supplied with samples of the goods actually required by, or likely to prove attractive to, the peoples of all countries, cannot but be of great advantage to a community which, relatively to its numbers, possesses a commerce not only not equalled but probably not approached in magnitude by any other in the world. The Governor is therefore of opinion that without appealing to British sentiment or to Imperial sentiment or indeed to any sentiment at all, the taking of some share in the Institute by this Colony may be advocated on purely 'business' grounds; and apart from this consideration he believes that it would hereafter become for various reasons a subject of regret if Hongkong should persist in standing aloof from a Great Institution which has been deemed worthy of the support of all the rest of the Empire.

Though holding these views, the Governor does not feel that the Institute is justified in giving to them practical effect by placing a vote for the purpose on the Estimates without the unanimous, or almost unanimous, approval of the Legislative Council; and he refers to the subject here in order that it may receive consideration in the Finance Committee.

In conclusion the Governor indulges the hope that whether his opinions as above expressed meet with the concurrence of the Council, or whether they are not, at least agree with him that the financial condition and prospects of the Colony, as revealed by the above survey, may be regarded as a subject of very justifiable congratulation.

The Governor has in this message confined himself entirely to questions of finance. He proposes, in another, to say briefly in review the principal events of the year about to close, and also as regards the coming year to mention the various subjects which demand attention, giving at the same time some general indications of the measures which he hopes to be able to submit to the Consideration of the Council.

By Command,  
FREDERICK STURGEON,  
Colonial Secretary.

#### SUPREME COURT.

##### IN BANKRUPTCY.

(Before His Hon. Mr. J. Russell, C.M.G., Acting Chief Justice.)

IN RE J. W. CROKER, BANKRUPT.—INTER-PRELIMINARY SUIT.

Mr. Webber appeared for the claimant, (Mr. R. Fraser-Smith); Mr. Wilson for certain creditors; and Mr. O. Ewens for the Chinese Customs. Mr. A. G. Wise, official assignee, was present. This was a matter which came before the Court in the shape of an interlocutory suit, claiming certain machinery or rather the interest which Mr. J. W. Croker, who was not at the time a bankrupt, had in the machinery, consisting of certain tools, cranks, pistons, rods, connecting rods, anchor chains &c. and four pairs of large engine bolts by Wilson and Sons of Glasgow. The facts were briefly these. On the 31st January this year Mr. Croker called on Mr. Fraser-Smith, plaintiff in the suit, and asked him to lend him the sum of \$900, being 25 per cent. on the said machinery, the documents in connection with the four engines being then in the possession of the Chartered Bank of India Australia and China. Mr. Smith promised to lend this money upon an arrangement being made that he should have a lien to

#### THE THEFT OF PAINT FROM DOCK CO'S STORES.

The three men—two shopmen and a labourer—who were charged



